

# Opera Grants for Female Composers: Discovery Grants 2019–2020

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*OPERA America*

## *Application Overview*

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**Application deadline:** January 8, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST

**Applications adjudicated:** February 2020

**Grantees notified:** March 2020

For more information, please refer to the grant guidelines [here](#).

Contact Kristal Pacific, grantmaking manager, at [KPacific@operaamerica.org](mailto:KPacific@operaamerica.org) or 646.699.5236 for questions.

## *Work Information*

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### **Work title\***

Title or working title of the opera in development

*Character Limit: 150*

### **Composer\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Librettist\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Describe the work associated with this application.\***

Either expand upon the synopsis from your letter of intent or provide a new description if significant changes have been made.

*Character Limit: 2000*

### **Roles\***

List the cast by role and voice type (e.g., Mary Tyler Moore, Soprano; Dick Van Dyke, Baritone).

*Character Limit: 1500*

**Chorus\***

Does this work utilize a chorus? If so, of what size? (e.g., S: 4, A: 2, T: 6 B: 1)

*Character Limit: 750*

**Instrumentation\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Why have you chosen this subject matter?\***

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Creative impetus\***

Why are you drawn to create this work at this time? Why did you choose to tell this story as an opera?

Provide a brief statement explaining the relationship between your form/style of composition and the subject of this work.

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Provide a scenic breakdown of the opera\***

You may use either a character/scene breakdown, storyboard or dramaturgical outline that narrates the theatrical arc of the work. Please refer to [this link](#) for examples.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristal Pacific, grantmaking manager, at [KPacific@operaamerica.org](mailto:KPacific@operaamerica.org).

*Character Limit: 5000*

**Libretto**

Please upload as much of the completed libretto as is available.

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*

**Has this work received a previous grant from OPERA America?\***

If yes, list the year and name of the grant(s) received.

*Character Limit: 300*

## *Creative Team*

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**Composer biography and resume\***

The biography should be narrative and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Identity (optional)

To better understand the demographics of OPERA America's applicant pool and evaluate the impact of our grant programs, we invite you to select all of the terms that you use to self-identify, racially or ethnically, from the list below. You will also have the opportunity to write-in additional or alternate responses in the "Other" category.

For more information, click [here](#). The choices below are not exhaustive, or intended to be limiting or prescriptive.

### Choices

African  
Latinx  
Asian  
Arab  
Native American  
White  
Other  
I prefer not to respond

## Identity, continued (optional)

If you selected "Other" from the checklist above, please write-in alternate or additional words you use to describe your racial or ethnic identity below.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this subject in more detail, please contact Kristal Pacific at [KPacific@operaamerica.org](mailto:KPacific@operaamerica.org) or 646.699.5236.

*Character Limit: 500*

## Librettist biography and resume

The biography should be in narrative form and limited to 1,000 characters. The resume should be uploaded as a PDF.

If the composer is also the sole librettist, please leave this blank.

*Character Limit: 2000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Previous opera collaboration

If the composer and/or librettist have not previously written an opera, please explain the artist(s)' motivations for writing in this medium.

If the composer and librettist's bios or resumes articulate previous opera experience, please leave this section blank.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Have you previously applied for a Discovery Grant?

Please list the name of the project (if different) and the year(s) that you applied. If this is the same project as your previous application(s), please articulate the changes or progress made since your last submission.

If this is your first time applying for a Discovery Grant, reply “N/A.”

*Character Limit: 1500*

**In the following section, please upload biographies for any other creative or performing artists associated with this project (e.g., stage director, conductor and/or music director, lighting designer, set designer, dramaturg).**

**You are not required to have a full creative production team in place at this time.**

### Artist 1

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

*Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Artist 2

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

*Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Artist 3

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

*Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Artist 4

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

*Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Artist 5

In the text section, provide the name and role of the artist, and then upload the biography.

*Character Limit: 100 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Project Information

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### Proposed project start date\*

The grant funded activities may start on or after May 1, 2020.

*Character Limit: 10*

**Proposed project end date\***

The grant funded activities must conclude by June 30, 2021.

*Character Limit: 10*

**Project type\***

This is the project type as indicated in your letter of intent. For more guidance on eligible activities, please refer to the grant guidelines [here](#).

**Choices**

Lab production  
Workshop  
Reading  
Working performance  
Other

**Other project type**

If you selected Other, please describe your project here.

*Character Limit: 250*

**Describe the project for which you are applying.\***

Please expand on the specific project activities proposed in the letter of intent. For reference on the range of activities eligible for funding, please refer to the list of examples in the grant guidelines [here](#).

*Character Limit: 1750*

**Timeline\***

Provide a detailed timeline for the complete development of this work, including the project for which you are requesting funding.

*Character Limit: 1500*

**Has this work been commissioned?\***

If so, by whom? If not, reply "N/A."

*Character Limit: 1000*

## *Budget*

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**Funding Parameters Review**

The size of an individual grant will vary according to the project's total costs as defined in the summary budget. Additional expenses to complete the project are the responsibility of the composer.

Grants will cover up to 100 percent of **eligible expenses**, not exceeding \$15,000; no matching funds are required. Only coach-class airfare will be covered by grants for applications requesting air transportation.

The Discovery portion of this program does not fund:

- Commissioning fees or direct payments to composers;
- Institutional overhead expenses if partnering with an organization;
- Expenses that are not connected specifically to a project, including general administrative expenses and competition or contest application fees;
- Tuition expenses;
- Professional development fees;
- Fundraising expenses;
- Ticket subsidies;
- Set, costume or properties construction or rental expenses for a fully staged production; and/or
- Any other expenses incurred in relation to a fully produced premiere for public presentation.

### **Total requested funding\***

The Discovery Grant may fund up to \$15,000 of the total budget. The number provided is the amount originally submitted in your letter of intent. Please adjust this according to the final budget submitted with this application.

*Character Limit: 20*

### **Budget upload\***

Please use the budget worksheet available [here](#) to complete your budget. Export as a PDF and upload using the link below. If you have supplementary budget documents, please add them to the budget PDF.

This budget worksheet covers many possible expenses in various developmental scenarios. Do not assume that every line should have an associated expense. There are three "other" lines in each budgetary section to add other fees. For questions, please contact Kristal Pacific, grantmaking manager, at [KPacific@operaamerica.org](mailto:KPacific@operaamerica.org).

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### **Total project expenses\***

Please input the total project expenses according to the budget you uploaded.

*Character Limit: 20*

## Work Samples

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Please provide three high-quality audio and/or visual recordings of your work. A corresponding score and/or libretto, with detailed notations, must accompany each submission. Applications without complete work samples will not be advanced for consideration.

### MANDATORY GUIDELINES:

- At least one of the samples must be from a theatrical work for voice(s) and instrumental ensemble.
- All A/V media must be uploaded to a streaming or hosting site.
  - Audio: Bandcamp or Dropbox are preferred.
  - Video: Youtube or Vimeo are preferred.
  - **Please remember to provide a password if the link is "private."**
- Submit a score that corresponds with each excerpt. Scores may only be submitted as PDFs. Hard copies, .MUS or other formats are not accepted.
- The total timing of the musical selections should not exceed 30 minutes.

### SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

- Provide only the materials required. Trim samples to the specific excerpt that you would like to be considered.
- If you are not trimming the samples as suggested above, clearly mark the timings in the notes (e.g., "Play from 3:22-7:49").
- Remove unnecessary pages from the scores, and clearly mark where the selection begins.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit excerpts from the work being submitted, if available.
- **MIDI recordings are strongly discouraged.** In specific very high-quality renderings, they may be accepted, but any auto-generated midi from Sibelius, Finale or similar programs will not be considered appropriate work samples.
- The quality of the sample is paramount. A refined audio sample is more compelling than a poorly captured video.
- If you have any questions about audio samples, please contact Kristal Pacific at [KPacific@operaamerica.org](mailto:KPacific@operaamerica.org). Questions about media samples should be addressed more than 72 hours before the deadline to ensure a timely response.

**SAMPLE 1****Sample 1 title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 1 composer\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 1 librettist\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 1 description/annotation\***

Please include roles, voicing and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Sample 1 A/V link\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Sample 1 A/V password (if necessary)**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 1 score\***

Upload the score below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*

**SAMPLE 2****Sample 2 title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 2 composer\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 2 librettist\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 2 description/annotation\***

Please include roles, voicing and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.



*Character Limit: 1000*

**Sample 2 A/V link\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Sample 2 A/V password (if necessary)**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 2 score\***

Upload the score below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*

**SAMPLE 3**

**Sample 3 title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 3 composer\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 3 librettist\***

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 3 description/annotation\***

Please include roles, voicing and information about this work sample and credit performing artists (e.g., soprano Sally Singer, bass Bobby Baritone).

If not excerpting, please include timings for guided listening.

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Sample 3 A/V link\***

*Character Limit: 2000*

**Sample 3 A/V password (if necessary)**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Sample 3 score\***

Upload the score below and provide any relevant notes about the score here.

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Other Materials

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### Supplementary Materials

If there are additional materials (press clippings, program copy, design proposals, etc.) that further illustrate the concept, history and/or development of the project to date, upload them here as a single PDF.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB*

### Social Media (optional)

#### Facebook page

*Character Limit: 2000*

#### Twitter handle

*Character Limit: 250*

#### Other social media

*Character Limit: 2000*

### PRESS RELEASE

The following materials are requested for the purpose of OPERA America's public announcement of the grant recipients. This section of your application will not be visible to the adjudication panel and the information contained therein will not be publicized unless your application is awarded.

#### Your name, as you would like it to appear in the press.\*

*Character Limit: 250*

#### Abbreviated biography\*

Please limit your biography to 500 characters, including spaces.

*Character Limit: 500*

#### Headshot\*

Please upload your high-resolution headshot or provide an access link here, including the photographer credit.

*Character Limit: 500 | File Size Limit: 3 MB*

#### Work title, as you would like it to appear in the press.\*

*Character Limit: 250*

#### Press release work summary\*

Please provide a summary of the work associated with this application for the purpose of OPERA America's public announcement of the grant recipients.

Your response will not be visible to the adjudication panel or publicized unless your application is awarded.

*Character Limit: 500*

**Signature\***

By typing your name below, you acknowledge that the information contained in this application and its attachments is accurate and complete.

*Character Limit: 100*